

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 162532

17

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SAM-01 AID-05 ACDA-10 DHA-02 ORM-01 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GDKULICK:ED

APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

PM:ISO:MDWORKEN

----- 013508

R 102111Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 162532

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USCINCEUR
CINCLANT
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

UNCLAS STATE 162532

BEIRUT ALSO PASS BAGHDAD; MILADDEES ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SO US

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 162532

SUBJECT: REP. STRATTON'S PRESS RELEASE ON BERBERA VISIT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY REP. STRATTON
JULY 8:

,WE VISITED BERBERA, SOMALIA, AT THE INVITATION OF THE
SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES ANDWE DID SO ONLY
AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF PHONE CALLS AND LETTERS WITH THE

AMBASSADOR THAT ASSURED US THAT BOTH THE COMMITTEE AND STAFF WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO ANY FACILITY WHICH WE WISHED TO VISIT AND ALSO WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS. IT WAS ONLY ON THE BASIS OF THE AMBASSADOR'S WRITTEN ASSURANCES THAT THERE WOULD BE "NO RESTRICTIONS" ON THE DELEGATION THAT WE AGREED TO MAKE THE ARDUOUS TRIP.

THIS COMMITMENT WAS NOT CARRIED OUT, AND THE DELEGATION HAS DRAWN APPROPRIATE CONCLUSIONS FROM SOMALIA'S FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO ITS EARLIER ASSURANCES.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE DELEGATION WAS REFUSED ACCESS TO AREAS AND BUILDINGS IT SPECIFICALLY ASKED TO VISIT. AT WHAT WAS ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE A NAVAL MISSILE FACILITY, ENTRANTS WERE LIMITED TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ONLY. STAFF PERSONNEL WERE DENIED ALL ACCESS AND EVEN MEMBERS WERE NOT ALLOWED

TO GET OUT OF THEIR VEHICLES OR TO ENTER BUILDINGS.

THE VEHICLES DID NOT EVEN STOP DURING A BRIEF, RAPID SWING THROUGH THE FACILITY, AND NO PHOTOGRAPHS WERE PERMITTED. LIKEWISE, THE GROUP WAS PERMITTED ONLY A DISTANT, MOVING VIEW OF THE LONG-DISTANCE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY BUILT BY THE SOVIETS, AND AGAIN NO PHOTOGRAPHY WAS PERMITTED. THE DELEGATION WAS ALSO REFUSED ALL ACCESS TO A KEY AREA OF THE PORT WHICH HAD FEATURED IN THE ORIGINAL DOD BRIEFINGS, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE AREA WAS "A SOMALI NAVAL INSTALLATION."

THE DELEGATION WENT TO THE GANGWAY OF THE SOVIET BARRACKS (AND PRESUMABLY HEADQUARTERS) SHIP (PKZ-98) THAT HAS LONG BEEN TIED UP ALONGSIDE THE MAIN BERBERA PIER. OUR SOMALI ESCORTS ACKNOWLEDGED IT TO BE A SOVIET SHIP, MANNED BY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 162532

RUSSIANS, BUT THEY REFUSED TO GIVE US ANY ACCOUNT OF ITS MISSION OR FUNCTION IN BERBERA. THE DELEGATION WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO GO ON BOARD THE SHIP BY A SOVIET MAINE GUARD. NO OTHER SOVIET PERSONNEL APPEARED ON DECK, AND REPEATED REQUESTS TO SPEAK TO THE CAPTAIN OR BE GIVEN AN EXPLANATION OF THE SHIP'S MISSION WERE IGNORED.

THE DELEGATION WAS ALSO PREVENTED FROM STOPPING AND INSPECTING A TRAILER AND HOUSING AREA RESERVED FOR SOVIET PERSONNEL.

THE ENTIRE DELEGATION WAS ALLOWED TO INSPECT AND TO PHOTOGRAPH FREELY ONLY THE PETROLEUM STORAGE FACILITIES, WHICH ARE IN THE PROCESS OF BEING EXPANDED, AND THE 10,000 TO 12,000 FOOT AIRFIELD WHICH IS IN THE EARLY

STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION UNDER SOVIET DIRECTION.

IN SPITE OF THE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON US, THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED:

1. THAT CLEARLY THERE ARE IMPORTANT MILITARY FACILITIES LOCATED AT BERBERA WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED OR ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY THE SOVIETS IN ACCORDANCE WITH KNOWN SOVIET DESIGNS;
2. THAT THESE FACILITIES ARE DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO SUPPORT NAVAL FORCES;
3. THAT THESE FACILITIES ARE BEING OPERATED LARGELY BY SOVIET PERSONNEL RESIDING IN BERBERA WITH LIMITED DEGREES OF SOMALI PARTICIPATION;
4. THAT THESE FACILITIES ARE CLEARLY BEYOND NOT ONLY THE NEEDS, BUT THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES OF CURRENT SOMALI MILITARY FORCES AND PERSONNEL; FOR EXAMPLE, THE NAVAL MISSILE FACILITY CAN STORE OR HANDLE NAVAL MISSILES OF A SUBSTANTIAL SIZE; THE SOMALI NAVY HAS NO KNOWN CAPABILITY FOR USING EVEN THE SMALLEST AND MOST OBSOLETE OF THESE MISSILES;

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 162532

5. THAT WHETHER TITLE TO THEM RESIDES IN THE SOMALIS OR THE SOVIETS, THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME FOR SOVIET USE; AND

6. THAT THEIR EXISTENCE IN BERBERA, AT THE MOUTH OF THE RED SEA AND AT THE MOMENT OF THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL TO SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS, REPRESENTS A VERY SIGNIFICANT ENHANCEMENT OF SOVIET NAVAL AND AIR FORCE CAPABILITIES TO OPERATE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA.

INDEED, WHEN FINALLY COMPLETED, THE BERBERA COMPLEX WILL REPRESENT THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY AVAILABLE TO THE SOVIETS ANYWHERE OUTSIDE THE SOVIET HOMELAND, INCLUDING CUBA. WHETHER ONE DOES OR DOES NOT CALL SUCH A COMPLEX A "BASE" IS A MERE SEMANTIC QUIBBLE.

IN ALL FAIRNESS, THE DELEGATION GAINED THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT SOME OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT WHO ESCORTED US TO BERBERA WERE NOT THEMSELVES AWARE OF THE EXTENT OF THE CURRENT USE OR POTENTIAL VALUE OF THESE VARIOUS FACILITIES TO THE SOVIET ARMED

FORCES.

AT THE URGING OF THE PRESIDENT OF SOMALIA, THE DELEGATION ALSO VISITED A RESETTLEMENT AREA, DESIGNED TO RELOCATE NOMADIC VICTIMS OF THE RECENT DROUGHT INTO AGRICULTURAL OCCUPATIONS ON FIXED AREAS OF LAND LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO DROUGHT. THE DELEGATION WAS GREATLY IMPRESSED BY EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT TO HANDLE THIS VERY SIZABLE PROBLEM. WE RE PLEASED TO HEAR FROM LOCAL SOMALI LEADERS OF THE RESETTLEMENT EFFORT THAT WHEN A WORLDWIDE CALL FOR AID WENT OUT SOME MONTHS AGO, THE UNITED STATES WAS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO RESPOND WITH HELP AND THAT THIS U.S. AID WAS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE SOMALI PEOPLE. THE DELEGATION WILL RECOMMEND THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO PROVIDING STILL FURTHER U.S. AID FOR THESE UNFORTUNATE DROUGHT VICTIMS." INGERSOLL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, INVITATIONS, PRESS RELEASES, MILITARY BASES, CODELS, BERBERA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE162532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GDKULICK:ED
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750240-0050
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750767/aaaacigl.tel
Line Count: 239
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <16 MAR 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REP. STRATTON'S PRESS RELEASE ON BERBERA VISIT FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY REP. STRATTON
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SO, US, (SIAD BARRE, MOHAMED), (STRATTON, SAMUEL S)
To: MOGADISCIO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006